

November 1994<sup>E4</sup><sub>C.1</sub>

# *the Emily*



***"Whenever I don't  
know whether to fight  
or not - I fight"***

***- Emily Murphy***

Vol. 13, No. 2

# Editorial

We are all "races", religions, nationalities, sexualities, classes, abilities, and astrological signs! And we are ALL women!

We are the "it"; the radical, militant, hairy legged, frequently lesbian, braless, tattooed and pierced women that you dread! And we're not going away, so get used to a new definition "woman"!

When a woman's opinion is attacked on the basis of assumptions regarding her appearance and/or sexuality, this is an OFFENSE.

When the Martlet publishes an editorial on AIDS which targets women as being responsible for the spread of AIDS as a result of sexual assault, including date rape, and offers a simplistic solution to the reality of unprotected sex this is an OFFENSE.

When Rob Walker is appointed interm chair of the political science department this is an OFFENSE. When the Martlet publishes an advertisement for a "popular and sophisticated evening" which advocates the objectification of "beautiful young ladies" for money, this is an OFFENSE.

When the Men's Club on campus distributes "pick-up lines like "if you ever want to see your children again, you'll do what I want " and "Stand back, I'm a doctor. You get an ambulance and I'll loosen her clothes" as jokes, this is an OFFENSE.

When the Men's Club proposes a health plan which does not cover oral contraceptives - when this was a primary reason students voted to reinstate the health plan - this is an OFFENSE.

When David Strong overturns decisions made by the equity department, this is an OFFENSE.

Although some departments are better than others, the fact that few women faculty are in tenure track positions is an OFFENSE.

Due to these offenses and many, many, more, UVIC needs the Emily.

The Emily provides women with the opportunity to develop knowledge, talent and skills.

The Emily provides the space for women to publish their work.

The Emily is non-sectarian, and publishes work by women which is not racist, sexist, abelist, or homophobic.

The Emily reserves the right to edit for length and clarity. ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○



## The Emily Wants You!



Our next issue comes out in early December. It will centre around issues of violence.

Graphics, poetry, fiction, articles, ideas, energy or interest are anxiously awaited. We meet every Tuesday at 12:30 in the Women's Centre. Submissions can be brought to meetings or dropped off at the Women's Centre by November 15, 1994. No skills necessary.

## In Response

In response to your "Commonwealth Trivia", which was just so much trivia, and could only have been written by a militant lesbian with pierced nipples, I can only say to you, put your bra back on, shave your legs and armpits, and start being a woman again, instead of an "It".

With your big mouth and your crazed intellectualizing, you go too far in comparing Christ with a sculpture of genitalia and some stale biscuits. And further down in your little Q and A claptrap, you say "(No offence, Christ!)", as if your previous remark was not offensive enough.

And who wants to look at a sculpture of genitalia, anyway? Isn't the human form, male or female, so much more beautiful than graphic detail of our crotches.

A suggestion for you - when next you have such a space to fill in your excuse for a paper, how about some nice art work, or maybe a tribute to positive things about men? A much more palatable idea than your ridiculous heterophobic clitcentric philosophizing. Sincerely,

A sane woman  
(Who likes being a female)

*The Emily Letters Policy*  
*The Emily accepts all letters written by women which are not racist, sexist or homophobic. Please drop all submissions for the Emily in the UVic Women's Centre.*

## The Emily Staff Box

### November Issue

adrienne mercer  
Ana Torres  
A Sane Woman  
Cathleen McGuire  
Christie Shaw

Erin  
Jaqueline Crummey  
Jen Errico  
Jen Saunders  
Leticia  
Melissa Svendsen

MJA  
Naomi Johnson  
Sarah deLeeuw  
Sarah McCoubrey  
Shelley Marie Motz  
Theresa Newhouse

*We Are Wise, Wise Women*

# Queer Erotica Banned By Veggie Sniffers

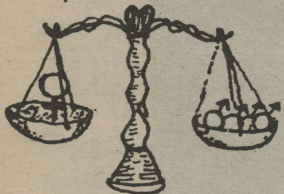
by Sarah deLeeuw

It might mean lesbians in Canada have more access to literature by and about us.

It might mean radical feminist perspectives are actually seen on book shelves across the country.

It might mean the authority to ban literature and art is no longer in the hands of people who know more about tainted agricultural products than queer erotica.

It will definitely mean attention is paid to the issue of censorship and homophobia in Canada.



Little Sister's Book and Art Emporium, a gay and Lesbian book store in Vancouver, is finally, after four and a half years, having her day in court. And she's filing a constitutional challenge to Canadian Government Censorship powers.

"[If we win] it won't stop censorship in Canada, but it will make it more responsible," said Jim Deva, co-owner of Little Sister's Books.

The law suit, which started on October 11, challenges the Customs censorship powers on two levels.

First, it claims by Customs banning "obscene material" without determining whether or not it was actually obscene, Customs is violating the right to freedom of expression outlined in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Secondly, the suit is charging that lesbian and gay authors are being discriminated against under Tariff Code 9956 of the Charter, which guarantees equality under the law.

"The issue of censor-

*"[If we win] it won't stop censorship in Canada, but it will make it more responsible,"*

ship is so complex, that a body like Customs, who make decisions about mattresses and fruit and vegetables, cannot decide what Canadians should be reading," said Deva.

In 1987, Little Sister's and the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA)

went to federal court to fight a decision by Customs to ban The Advocate, a lesbian and gay magazine.

Two weeks before the case went to trial, Customs reversed its decision, and decided to let the Advocate into Canada. They had, though, burned all copies previously seized at the border. The government settled out of court for damages to the bookstore.

"[We] feel the present system is undemocratic," said Deva, "because it means that we have to prove material is not harmful to Canadian society, and so many places don't have the resources to do that."

If we win, the courts and the police would have to prove the material is harmful to Canadians, rather than the reverse"

Janine Fuller, a staff member of Little Sister's books, said in an interview with the Globe and Mail, "There's still homophobia out there, and for some people it was an issue that it was gay and lesbian books."

There is a very chilling kind of censorship that goes on in this country [right now]. People are concerned that by their visibility, they too will suffer detentions and seizures."♀

## LIST OF SOME BOOKS AND MAGAZINES STOPPED BY CANADA CUSTOMS

Hot Head Paisan, Bad Attitude, On Our Backs, Bushfires, Afterglow, Dead Pariah, Teleny, Dancing On My Grave, Caught Looking, Bizzare Dreams, Frisk ♀

## Striking for Justice

55 beds remain empty while people sleep on the street

### Women and Homelessness.

Did you know that...

• Homeless women in Victoria have little or no access to Emergency Housing at present.

• Streetlink Emergency Shelter with 11 beds for women sits closed due to management's refusal to run the shelter.

• The 3 Emergency beds contracted at the YWCA for the Commonwealth Games ended September 30th.

• Victoria Women's Transition House had a Waitlist of 55 women and children in mid-August in spite of extra beds provided through Commonwealth funding.

• Transistion House and Hill House cannot accommodate women with drug and alcohol or mental health problems and often refer these women to Streetlink.

• Transition House workers state that women who have no place to go put thier lives in jeopardy by staying in abusive relationships.

• Mentally ill women are being housed in inadequate, unsuitable hotel rooms where they have no support and are often afraid. Many choose to sleep outside instead.

• With no place to go, homeless women have no relief from the stresses of living on the streets.

• Women are going home with men and paying the price in order to have a roof over their heads.

• Homeless women in Victoria have little access to food.

• Streetlink, which serves 100 meals daily to both women and men is closed.

• The Salvation Army services are for men only.

• Line-ups of up to 200 men at the Upper Room often intimidate women, who must make a choice between compromising personal safety and eating. Most choose to stay away.

• Homeless women have no place to do laundry or shower now that Streetlink is closed.

• Homeless women have lost a major source of advocacy, counselling and support services put in place through Streetlink.

• Women can fall through the cracks when trusting relationships with counsellors and advocates are gone.

• Colder weather is coming. What happens to homeless women then?

### Why Are Streetlink Workers on Strike?

After 1 year of negotiations, management offered:

• NO to Provincial Government Pay Equity Job Evaluation Process, used to determine what workers do, what it's worth and how wages compare with other workers.

• NO to accumulated seniority for part-time and relief workers, now in place.

• NO to wage increases in year 1 and an increase in the next 2 years amounting to wage roll-backs.

### What do street link workers want?

• Job evaluation/equal pay for work of equal value.

• Seniority for relief and

on call/part time workers.

• Fair wages, not roll backs.

• Respect for valuable service.

• Bargaining in good faith.

### Why are Streetlink shelters closed?

• Management closed the shelter July 28.

• Management refused to negotioate until September 13.

• Management is paid but provides no service.

• \$100 000 has been saved in wages and benefits to workers by closing the shelter and prolonging the strike.

• Shelter for the homeless is not considered and essential service.

### What can be done?

• you can lobby the Cool Aid Society to re-open the Streetlink Shelter closed by management July 28.

• With the political will, Streetlink managemnt could re-open its shelter using its non-union managers. This would open up 11 beds for women as well as giving them a place to wash clothes and shower.

### How?

If you are concerned about homeless women and wish to help, please voice you concern by calling:

• Jane Dewing, Executive Director, Cool Aid Society @ 383-1977.

• Isobel Dawson, Cool Aid Society @ 721-7954.

• Joy McPhail, Minister of Social Services @ 387-3180.♀

*poems for  
lucy jordan  
By adrienne  
mercer*

carrots

*there was a day  
when I played your guitar  
sang louder than i shout at  
you*

*waiting  
for your car to pull in  
I played because I was sick  
of watching the carrots  
sick of the sauces  
you never eat in time  
the overcooked meals you  
forget  
before you swallow*

*I know a few chords  
pieced them together by the  
window  
played to the rain  
and the empty driveway  
the changes came easy  
the strumming in rhythm*

*it was an hour  
before you turned the corner*

*I ran to the guitar case  
under the sweep of head-  
lights  
buckled the music away  
the kitchen fan whirring  
the carrots boiling dry.*

### shadow game

*lately every time i blink  
we are finished  
and I'm five years older  
who said love was easy  
even with strangers  
i still haven't learned  
to dance  
except in dark hallways  
hours spent tracing my face  
at the mirror  
have proven useless  
we are crumpling from the weight  
of forced happiness  
wrinkling under pressure  
i hate to run this way  
thudding down grass  
so much greener than you or i*

we ARE GIGGLING GIRLS

# Protecting Ourselves: 'Cause No One Else Will

On Tuesday, October 10 at 3 o'clock in the morning, an anti-abortion terrorist torched the clinic of Dr. James Armstrong of Kalispell, Montana. Damage estimates are unavailable.

Dr. Armstrong is one of only two abortion providers in this large, mostly rural state. Montana's other abortion provider, Dr. Susan Wicklund, for years has been a target of anti-abortion terrorists and stalkers. Their threats and harassment, which included

stalking her

daughter

at school,

were so ex-

treme that Dr.

Wicklund has

armed herself and hired bodyguards for protection.

Dr. Wicklund is undeterred however, and continues to provide much-needed reproductive health care for women.

According to Bay Area Coalition for Our Reproductive Rights's (BACORR) assessment, this attack closely follows a pattern that has been replicated across the country.

Since the direct action anti-abortion movement has lost in the courts, the legislatures and the streets, they are pursuing an openly terrorist strategy that seeks to destroy women's access to reproductive health care.

This is the third such attack in less than a week. Early last Sunday morning, October 9, two California women's clinics were struck by an arsonist in Chico and Redding; clinics situated in

largely rural, northeastern California.

Damage estimates of the attack on Chico's Planned Parenthood have been revised upwards to \$30,000. The attic and entryway were destroyed. Damage at the

Redding Feminist

Women's Health

Center (FWHC),

are more

than \$3,000.

Redding

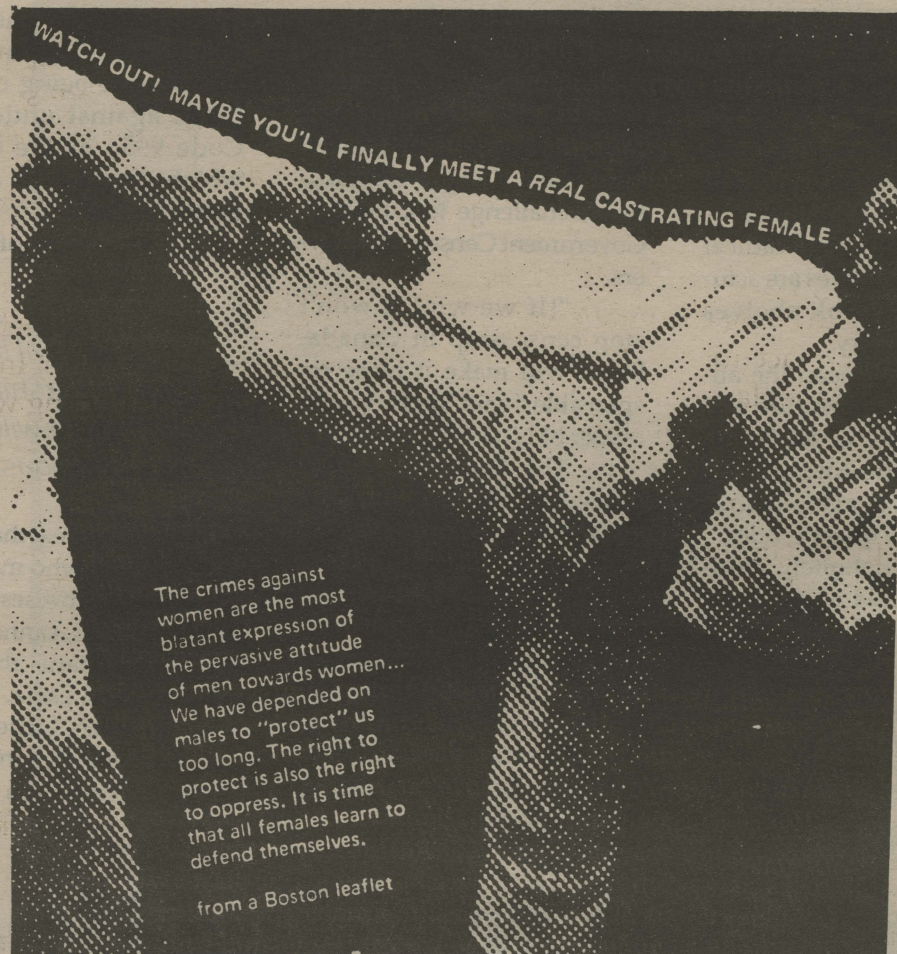
clinic has been

firebombed four times since 1989.

According to reports from Redding obtained by BACORR, the Redding Police Department were informed by Chico officials more than 90 minutes prior to the arson attack in Redding; they did nothing.

Laura Weide, a long-time BACORR activist, said: "Relying on laws or authorities to keep women's clinics open is a joke. As events in Redding and throughout the nation prove time and again, only pro-choice community watch and clinic defense will keep our clinics open."

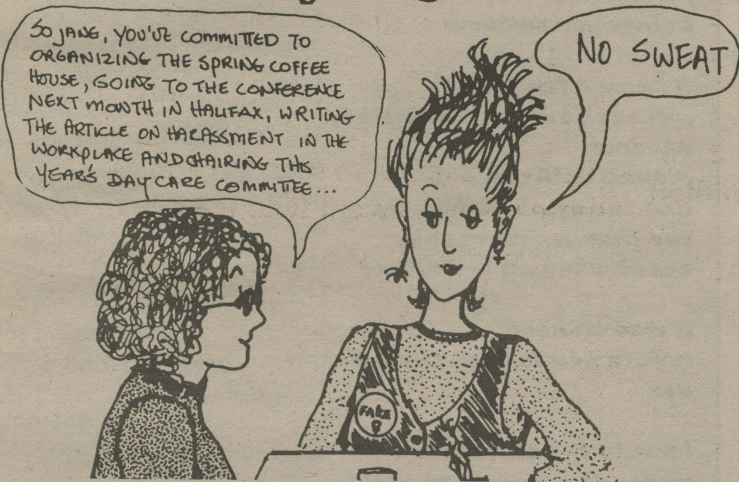
*"Relying on laws or authority to keep women's clinics open is a joke."*



it's getting late and i am walking in my neighbourhood, past the car lots on yates street and through the gravel behind the medical building, it's dark but i can see my friend at the other side of the empty lot, we are meeting for coffee and we always do it this way, meet halfway no matter how dark it is, so we can hear each other if anything happens but we don't really say it, it's just the way we do it because what kind of life is it to never walk at night on your own street, even if your street is a connection of blinding crosswalks and bushes at the side of the road, lit by the eerie glow of the mazda showlights no matter what time it is, we always think the rotating chrysler sign will follow us one night, lead us to another place where signs and buildings keep watch over people especially women, people would think it was a good solution, a safety measure but they just don't get it, they never got it but they think they know best, it's a ten second walk to my car when i get off work at eleven, ten seconds with nobody to walk with and bushes on either side, sometimes i wish for lights but they're useless when it comes down to it, the feeling doesn't change, my friend starts work at 5am, she carries a hammer in her jacket sleeve, one night i walked home at 12:30 with sean and he said, i think when i get home i'll get some food and just keep walking, i walk for hours some nights, and i said to him that would be nice, i wish i could do that, sean got quiet and said, i never thought about that, i nodded and realized the last time i walked after midnight without destination was with sean last december, i walk home with my women friends, or to restaurants in the middle of the night but it's not the same thing, a woman i know walks at night because she is angry, i know what she means, so far i can only go out if i've forgotten something, walk the two murky blocks to the 7eleven forcing myself not to turn around, my friend and i meet in the gravel and throw our arms around each other, it's good to see you, she says and we link arms and just keep walking

by adrienne mercer

## The perils of getting involved!



## More Than Class

by Michele Agostinelli

Have you ever thought about getting involved in a Course Union? As an undergraduate student taking a class in any of the multitudes of departments in which you fill your minds with knowledge, you are a member of that course union.

Course Unions provide both social and educational outlets. They influence departmental decisions as well as provide a forum for people of like interests to get together.

There are also the Course Union constituency groups,

for example, the women's caucus of the political science department. These groups can be organized through members of a course union who are interested in discussing and acting on conditions of inequity on campus.

Course Unions engage in a plethora of activities and are always looking for new ideas and time that can be spared. If you're interested in getting involved or have any questions you can contact Stacey Tabert (the groovy Director of Academics at 721-8369).

The Course Unions are there for you, so come see how much fun it is! ♀

# MORE HETEROPHOBIC,

# Pharmaceutical Giant exploits for their benefit

by Cathleen McGuire

Did you know that synthetic estrogen is a known carcinogen? Did you know that most estrogen prescribed for menopausal women comes from the urine of pregnant mares? Did you know that this popular drug entails the slaughter of thousands of baby foals?

Increasingly, women approaching menopause are being encouraged by the medical/pharmaceutical industry to consider hormone replacement therapy.

Underneath this ostensible concern for women's health is an issue that poses enormous consequences for women, animals and the environment.

Ayerst, a pharmaceutical company based in Montreal, is a division of American Home Products, a multinational corporation. Ayerst has a virtual monopoly on the pregnant mare's urine (PMU) industry.

Their plant, Ayerst Organics, in Brandon, Manitoba - the only one in the world - acquires estrogen-rich urine from approximately 75,000 mares on 485 PMU "farms" in the Prairie provinces and North Dakota.

Ayerst then ships the extracted estrogen to its main plants in Montreal and New York where it is manufactured into Premarin, the world's leading hormone replacement drug. ('Premarkin' is short for pregnant mare's urine.)

*"We should be asking just what the long term effects of Ayerst's product will be on the environment of women's bodies."*

Through artificial insemination, the mares are impregnated to be on the same eleven-month gestation cycle. Percheron and Belgian draft horses are the breeds of choice, since the larger the animal, the more plentiful the urine/estrogen yield.

From approximately September to April, when their estrogen production is highest, the pregnant mares are fitted with collection cups and confined to narrow stalls. An Edmonton newspaper article explains:

"The horses are kept in stalls with a kind of rubber cup attached to their business end. The urine drains through a network of hoses to a stainless steel tank where it's kept chilled until pickup."

"Flexible rubber bands keep the cup in place but allow the horse to move about in the stall or lie down. Groups of five are exercised every two or three days."

Animal rights groups such as the Manitoba Animal Rights Coalition (MARC), however, claim that in reality the only exercise the animals get is from sitting down and standing up. The treatment of the horses is very similar to that of intensively raised dairy cattle.

According to PMU farmer, Rocky Cartier, "It's paid the same, it's handled the

same as dairies, everything is exactly the same. In fact, the bulk room where the tank is was altered to dairy specs two years ago."

Anxious to avoid any hint of a horse abuse scandal, the industry compiled a detailed *Recommended Code of Practice* which farmers must adhere to.

Groups such as MARC continue to expose inhumane practices, however. For example, the average horse measures eight or nine feet, yet the guidelines allow for stalls as short as six feet in length. MARC has also been conferring with a former employee from one PMU farm who claims she can document the death of seven mares.

Death, in fact, is a given in the PMU industry. Although some foals end up as riding ponies in the hands of private owners, the vast majority of the 75,000 baby horses born each year are treated as by-products. They are separated from their mothers and trucked long distances to feed lots where they are reared for eventual slaughter as horse meat.

Ayerst refuses to assume any responsibility, claiming, "...the farmers - not Ayerst - are responsible for sending the horses to slaughter."

Tom Hughes of the Canadian Farm Animal Care Trust (CANFACT) states:

"Colts and full fillies are typically sold by PMU farms at four to five months of age, just as their mothers are impregnated again. They may or may not be fattened by the purchasers before slaughter, depending on horse flesh prices. Fillies who show the temperment and conformation to become PMU producers are kept as replacements for worn out or infertile mares, or are used to expand production."

With baby boomer women entering menopause, the lucrative hormone replacement business is positioning itself for a gold rush. Ayerst is pouring \$100 million into its Brandon plant, augmented by a \$20 million Western Economic Diversification Fund subsidy from Canada's federal and provincial governments.

Hailing the expansion as a "success story" politicians and Ayerst representatives - all men - boast of increased employment for the area. Many farmers are eager to be accepted by Ayerst as PMU suppliers. Les Burwash, a Calgary horse specialist, claims, "It's a good, sound agricultural enterprise..."

What no one is bragging about are the environmental problems resulting from the manufacturing process. The stench from the by-products is notorious. Ayerst was allowed to expand operations on the condition that they build a new dumping station to eliminate the noxious animal feces and ammonia waste. The dumping station, however, threatens to overload the city of Brandon's sewage treatment plant, posing serious problems for the water quality of the Assiniboine River. The water-soluble ammonia dumped is also lethal to fish and other aquatic life.

According to Bill Paton, of Manitobans Against the Assiniboine Diversion, "Ayerst

already has a history of non-compliance with the Clean Environment Commission and the smell from the plant is getting worse."

Marianne Cerilli, a member of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, is calling for an immediate basin-wide federal environmental assessment. Along with her outrage over the dangers to the environment, Cerilli is also alarmed about the potential health hazards facing women who take Premarin. "We should be asking just what the long-term effects of Ayerst's product will be on the environment of women's bodies."

In the 1960s, estrogen was extolled as a wonder drug. It is now known that there are links between synthetic estrogen and endometrial cancer, not to mention other "side effects".

*Increasingly, women approaching menopause are being encouraged by the medical pharmaceutical industry to consider hormone replacement therapy.*

In the 1980s, another drug, progesterone, became routinely administered with estrogen to counteract cancerous effects. (In an apparent reversal of its former position, the medical establishment now seems to be suggesting that progesterone is not needed, and may even be detrimental.)

Proponents of Premarin cite its effectiveness for the prevention of osteoporosis and relief from vaginal dryness, hot flashes and other menopausal concerns. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, however, estimates that only fifteen percent of women find menopause "disruptive" enough to seek "treatment". For those fifteen percent who want help, fundamental questions remain: Have the full effects of Premarin been thoroughly investigated? Can we trust Ayerst's data? Does Ayerst use lab animals as research subjects?

In response to the ethics of using Premarin some doctors have indicated that they would be willing to prescribe cruelty-free alternatives. Laboratory-made substitutes such as Estraderm (Ciba Pharmaceuticals), Estrace (Mead Johnson), and Ogen (Abbott Labs) have been recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

The downside is that these synthetics are about twice as expensive and, once again, we do not know the full extent of their dangers or the degree of animal experimentation involved in their development.

When I was twenty-five, I underwent a hysterectomy - trusting my doctor knew what was best for me. Although my uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries were severely afflicted, there were no signs of malignancy. Nonetheless, my gynecologist adhered to an AMA tradition: When in doubt, cut them out.

-con't on page 11-

## CLITCENTRIC PHILOSOPHIZING

by Naomi Johnson

*Education must remain publicly funded and be universally accessible at all levels, including adult education, literacy and second language training programs...*

*We support an education system that discourages hierarchy of various types of employment and stratification of society and works toward equitable treatment of all.*

The Women's Agenda - Declaration of Principles and a Call to Action (National Action Committee on the Status of Women)

Post-secondary education in Canada was originally privately funded, elitist, and dominated by upper class men of mostly European descent.

Over the past several decades, students have struggled long and hard to ensure that education is more accessible for women, First Nations people, people with disabilities, people of colour, mature students, lesbians, gay and bisexuals students and people from a range of socioeconomic backgrounds.

Now, the minister of Human Resources, Lloyd Axworthy, seems to be lending truth to the old adage "one step forward, two steps back".

Lloyd Axworthy and the Liberal government have released a review of Canada's social programs which would restructure and drastically cut funding to the following programs: Unemployment Insurance, Canada Assistance Plan, Child-Tax Benefits, Women's Programs, Established Program Financing Agreement (whereby the federal government transfers money to the provinces for post-secondary education) and the Canada Student Loan Program.

The stated purpose of the review, to restructure Canada's Social Programs to better meet the changing needs of Canadians, is a positive one. Unfortunately it is also a lie.

The review is actually a blatant attempt to drastically cut costs and in doing so, cut programs. For example, the "solution" proposed by the federal government to the problem of the inaccessibility of post-secondary education in

Canada involves giving Canadians the "choice" of having 2.6 billion dollars cut in block funding to the provinces for post-secondary education, or accepting a revamping university funding program in the form of income contingent loan repayment plans.

The review is not just about cut-backs. It is about a deliberate shift in thinking about the financing of our social programs. Sunera Thobani, President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, has pointed out that we are looking at an ideological shift where we are "no longer citizens with rights, but consumers with choice".

Under this way of thinking, post-secondary education is no longer assumed to be a public good, but a product for consumption.

Slashing post-secondary education funding to the provinces will cause huge increases in tuition as institutions look to individual students to bear the full costs of their education. Currently, students at UVIC pay for about 23% of the annual operating costs of this institution.

Under the Liberal's proposal, your tuition will at least double and could possibly quadruple.

#### Income Contingent Loan Repayment Plans

So the prospect of much higher tuition scares you? Fear not! The federal government has a plan for you. It's called the Income Contingent Loan Repayment Plan (ICLRP) and if Lloyd Axworthy has his way, some form of the plan will be coming to the financial aid office near you any time in the next few years.

The premise of ICLRP's is that students will be able to borrow as much as they need to finance the costs of their education, and will pay the loan back according to their income after graduation. So, it will not matter if tuition skyrockets because you will be able to borrow as much as you need to pay it. Of course, you will be graduating with an overwhelming debt load, but then, you will pay back according to your income after graduation and if you make less, you pay less, so everything is fair.

## OFF THE BACKS OF WOMEN . . . AGAIN THE SOCIAL POLICY REVIEW

What follows is a little story about Mary, a student, and her experiences on an income-contingent loan repayment plan.

**1995** - Mary, a 20 year old, borrows the maximum available for four years to finance her degree under a needs-based income contingent scheme. Interest begins accruing on her loan the day she first takes it out.

**1999** - Mary graduates.

**2000** - Mary finds a job, but it only pays minimum wage. She does not have to begin repaying her loan debt, but it is still collecting interest.

**2001** - At the age of 27, Mary gets a decent job paying \$30 000 a year and starts paying back her debt, which is now \$33 000, at 3% of her taxable income.

**2004** - Her debt has been reduced to \$30 000, but Mary and her girlfriend decide to have a child, and she leaves the work force. She does not have to continue repaying, but interest continues to accumulate on her debt.

**2006** - Mary is back at work. Her debt is back up to \$31 500.

**2009** - After working for three years at a higher income (and paying proportionately higher loan repayments) she now only owes \$25 000. However, Mary becomes ill and has to take time off work.

**2009** - During the 6 month period of her illness, Mary's debt accumulates interest.

**Synopsis:** Since graduating ten years ago, Mary has worked, had a child and managed to pay off less than a third of her original \$33 000 student loan debt. She is almost 35 years old. If she continues to hold a good job, Mary can expect to pay off her loan debt by her early fifties - just about the time her daughter will start to think about attending university or college.

Note: This model has been based on an optimistic assumption that tuition fees will increase at roughly the same levels as today once ICLRP's have come into effect and on current low interest levels. It is far more likely that the amount that Mary (and you) could owe would approach \$60 000 upon graduation.

Thanks to Caryn Duncan, CFS Researcher for information of Mary's Life.



Or is it?

In fact, all models of ICLRP's proposed for Canada involve the levying of interest on the loan - from the moment it is taken out. Thus, the less you have, the more you borrow, the higher your interest, the more you pay. The longer it takes to get a decent paying job, the more interest accrues on your debt, the more you pay.

Income contingent loan repayment plans will compromise the fairness of the post-secondary education system. Students with lower lifetime earnings, such as women and people with disabilities, borrowing under this type of plan would pay more for their education than borrowers with higher lifetime earnings and will pay more than students who are able to pay for their education without borrowing under the plan.

#### Consumers with Choice...?

Income contingent loan repayment plans are a way for the government to renege on its responsibility to fund post-secondary education. The costs that will be assumed by students, should these changes be permitted to go forward, will regiment the choices that students make in terms of whether to attend an institution of higher learning at all, and the courses or program to take once there.

For many, the prospect of a potential debt load of between \$30 000 and \$60 000 will significantly impact the decision of whether even to go to school. It will especially impact those students with an aversion to debt, such as those from working class backgrounds.

Once in a post-secondary institution, a student's choices are further limited by the fact she will want to go through as quickly as possible and get a job which will pay off her debt as soon as possible. There might, for example, no longer be the option of taking an extra year of studies to complete that Women's Studies minor. Thus these proposed new arrangements force value judgements on what types of learning are seen as important, and consequently deserving of funding.

A student's debt load will also influence the "choices" she makes

after graduation. For example, the prospect of years of debt will influence whether or not she buys a home, or continues to rent.

#### "The Deficit Made Me Do It!"

David Anderson, MP for Victoria and Federal Minister of Revenue, recently spoke at UVIC. When it was pointed out to him how substantially tuition would rise under the proposed social policy review, he made the point that tuition is on the rise anyway, as government simply cannot afford to put more money into social programs given the interest payments which must be paid on the national debt. The national debt is often used by government when they want an excuse to cut spending. It is becoming both tiring and unconvincing.

Cutting government spending will not solve the debt problem. Increasing government income, however, can significantly impact government coffers. Thirty years ago, corporate income tax accounted for 20% of all federal revenue. Now it accounts for only 8%. Personal income as well is unfairly taxed. The top tax rate on the richest Canadians was lowered from a high of around 80% in the 1960's to around 50% today and the number of tax brackets themselves have been substantially lowered.

Were corporations and rich Canadians fairly taxed, billions of dollars in additional government revenue would be realized.

What the federal government is proposing is discriminatory.

We, as women and as students do not have to accept it.

The UVic Students' Society as a member of the Canadian Federation of Students is working hard to prevent these proposals from becoming reality. Your help is needed. Contact Stacey or Tina in the Resource Centre in the SUB, or phone 721-8366 if you want to get involved.

Thanks to Caryn Duncan, Canadian Federation of Students Researcher, Marne Jensen, B.C. rep to the CFS National Executive and Michael Gardiner, UVSS Director of Finance for information in this piece. Thanks also for information provided at the Women's Conference to Stop the Attack on our Social Programs.

cucumbers deemed obscene at border

# Radio Realm Offers Place For Women

by MJA

I remain caught in the fragments of words... the need to capture both the reason and reality of talking into this microphone... Are my levels OK? Is this frequency clear? It would feel quite strange to have my voice scattered across vacant and unencumbered airwaves! Personally, the realm of alternative media had always been unreachable; very separate from this journey I call my life. But suddenly I'm sitting in front of a board full of multicoloured buttons and levels, electronic equipment to my left, to my right, behind me... fully engrossed with my surroundings. I have dabbled in the realm of the FM frequency!

*Step aside guys, the "39%" female membership is rising as we speak!!!*

Growing up watching WKRP in Cincinnati, I've always imagined radio to be the palate of Rock 'N Roll where women were only valued if they were sitting behind a desk. Well, welcome to the nineties sweetheart—the radio realm offers so much more!!!

Interested in alternative media? How about dabbling

in journalism? Spinning records? Writing and producing radio shows? Has the thought of addressing social issues on the radio ever grabbed your fancy? Since my involvement with CFUV (Victoria's only radio alternative)

*We aren't asking for much — just the acknowledgment that women exist both in and out on the airwaves.*

I have witnessed a growth in the number of female faces both in and around the station. Indeed, the station's dedication to Women's Programming and involvement is no longer assumed — it's IN YOUR FACE!!! Step aside guys, the "39%" female membership is rising as we speak!!! We aren't asking for much — just the acknowledgment that women exist both in and out on the airwaves. One of the benefits of alternative media, such as CFUV, is that it provides a voice for EVERYBODY; ethnic communities, youths, lesbians, bisexuals and gays, as well as other under-represented groups — INCLUDING WOMEN!!! CFUV, thus far, offers the following in women's programming:

**Women on Air** — A spoken word program featuring women's issues, events, news,

interviews, and music. SUNDAYS 3:00- 4:00pm.

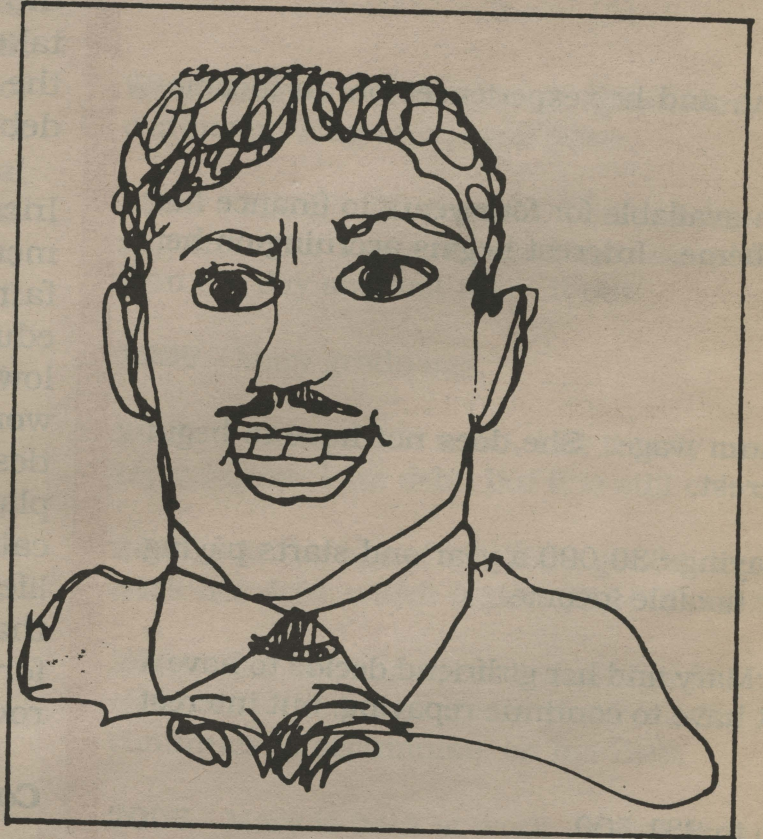
**W.A.R. (Women's Alternative Radio)** — A Women's/Native Issues driven program. FRIDAYS 2:00-3:00pm.

**Beating Time** — Two hours of women only music from folk to rock while you ponder the day's events. MONDAYS 9:00- 11:00pm.

**Equity Eclectika** -- A beautiful blend of 51% or more varied female content to soothe your soul. WEDNESDAYS 10:30-12:30am.

**Out On The Waves** — A spoken word program by, for and about Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals. Please note: NO prerequisites are needed!!! Tune in! TUESDAYS 8:30-9:00pm.

So while you satisfy your auditory senses by tuning in to 101.9 FM, contemplate the possibilities of what CFUV can offer you — or perhaps what you can offer CFUV!! The station welcomes any new faces and provides training for new volunteers, so if you're interested in becoming a volunteer and joining the CFUV family of women, drop by the second floor of the Student Union Building at UVic or call 721-8702 for more information. ...My levels? Right! This frequency is clear, is it not? It would feel quite strange to have my voice scattered across vacant and unencumbered airwaves...



*I think, if women don't like the way we run things here, they can go back where they came from. That's what I think.*

by Nicole Hollander

# Calling All Queers

by Christie Shaw

Calling all Queers....the LGBA is a forum created to give the space needed to discuss the political as well as the personal issues of being gay. This year the alliance is being coordinated by Lisa J. Lander who comes to us from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Collective at Douglas College in Vancouver where she also represented her community on the Students' Society. I had the pleasure of talking to her in the women's centre after a meeting where we discussed some of the reasons why she applied for the job and what she sees as some of the possibilities that lie in the future for the LGBA.

Lisa's main incentive for taking the work study centred around the invisibility of the LGBA on campus. This is her first year at UVic and she found that she had to literally search out the LGBA. She was referred to a few people before finding out about the group and felt that as an outspoken person this may not be such a

problem, but for those who only have the courage to ask once, it could be discouraging. (The Goddess only knows, we would never want to discourage anyone from joining our club!) She feels that the stu-

*invisibility = marginality.*

dents on campus need to be aware of the alliance since invisibility = marginality. Lisa talked of wanting, ideally, to have a balance of men and women with the possibility of creating independent all female and all male spaces to discuss issues that are specific to lesbians and gay men. She stressed that the group was not just a group for white middle-class people, but that it encourages the attendance of everyone regardless of class, race, gender, and sexual pref...well you do have to be gay.

Lisa sees the focus on visibility to be a means of educating the general public because homophobia and heterosexism are based on ignorance. She also stressed the importance of making the group better known through-

out the city as well as on campus. Victoria does not have an existing safe all - queer space at this time.

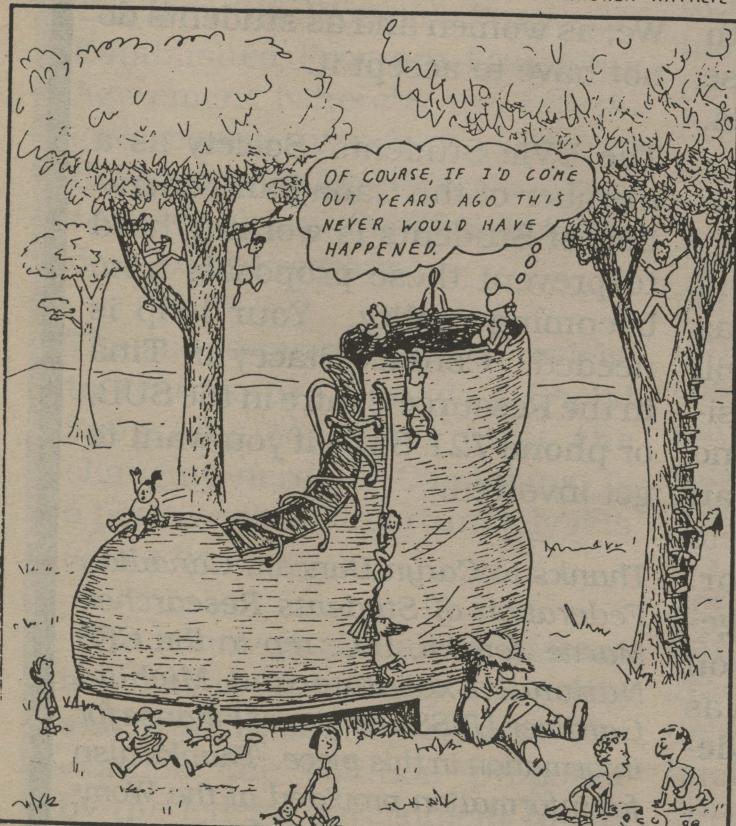
The alliance has decided to have one meeting a week dedicated to a visibility workshop. Lisa's ambition is to work on making lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and trans-genders more visible while working on issues of racism, sexism, and classism within the community. Most importantly, Lisa wants to create and maintain a safe place for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and trans-genders to meet for support and friendship.

The LGBA meets every Tuesday from 6:00pm - 7:30pm (Social)  
Friday from 12:30pm - 2:30pm (Visibility Workshop)

\*The LGBA is open to all residents of Vancouver Island as well as those who attend the University of Victoria. For more information call Lisa at 721 - 3083.9

## STONEWALL RIOTS

BY ANDREA NATALIE



*Someday my Prince will come... but*

# These Boots are Making Herstory



*"I was hoping to correct the assumption of my students that lesbian history consists of Sappho, Gertrude Stein and gay liberation."*

*Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold: The History of a Lesbian Community* by Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy and Madeline D. Davis, Penguin Books Ltd, 1994. \$15.99

by Shelley Marie Motz

*"Things back then were horrible and I think that because I fought like a man to survive I made it somehow easier for the kids coming out today. I did all their fighting for them... I would have nothing to leave anybody in this world, but I have that...that I left them a better place to come out into... But I wouldn't deny it. Even though I was getting my brains beaten up I would never stand up and say, 'No don't hit me. I'm not gay.' I wouldn't do that. I was maybe stupid and proud, but they'd come up and say, 'Are you gay?' And I'd say, 'Yes I am.' Pow, they'd hit you. For no reason at all..."*

Coming out. Passing as a man. Being femme. Being Black in a racist society. Raising children. Aging. All within the context of a working-class butch-femme community, in Buffalo, from the mid-1930s to the early 1960s.

*Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold: The History of A Lesbian Community* not only chronicles the growth of this community. It pays homage to the courage, pride and determination of the lesbians who, by openly claiming and expressing their desire despite oppression and violence, facilitated the development of the gay and lesbian liberation movements of the seventies and eighties.

The authors dedicated the book "To the women who have gone before us, brave women, outlaws, who sought only to find a life of love and dignity..."

Davis writes that her objective was "...to write an accu-

rate and compassionate chronicle of the lives of these brave women who had cared for me so generously when I came out in the mid-1960s."

Lapovsky Kennedy writes "I was hoping to correct the assumption of my students that lesbian history consists of Sappho, Gertrude Stein and gay liberation."

*Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold* is based on thirteen years of research and the oral histories of forty-five women. Throughout the book, these women's voices give testimony to the difficulties of living and loving in "...a community under siege."

Eloquently, and with great empathy, the authors reveal how the women they interviewed experienced the bar culture, misogyny inside and outside of the community, issues of race and class, butch-femme images and sexuality, serial monogamy, committed relationships, the lesbian fight for public space and the formation of lesbian identities.

Everybody - gay, straight or bi - can gain insight from this book. If you're attempting to challenge your own homophobia, to place butch-femme roles within a historical perspective, to analyze butch-femme culture, and especially if you're attempting to locate yourself within butch-femme culture, the stories recounted in *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold* will horrify, amaze and stimulate you. ♀



## Apparition

*You are haunting,  
shadow of my waking dreams.  
The terror of distant distinct  
outbursts, a fist raised in dominance,  
the shouted hiss of assumed authority.*

*Chimera to me now, your  
form is every place I turn.  
It brushes past on the crowded street,  
and has driven by down the road.*

*The time I spent with you was  
the erosion of my reflection.  
Unseen as other than you.  
Only alone am I able  
to sustain shape to  
strengthen my existence.*

*We have raging battles now,  
you and I. That anger which  
smoldered within for so long  
now flames high through me,  
I am terrible. These days I win.*

*Sometimes we talk. You, the shadow  
of known dread, and I (though I am  
still not sure how possible it is  
for you to respond intelligently, gently).*

*I explain succinctly what you did.  
My arguments so brim over with reason  
that you are captivated by my truth.  
Your penitence follows. Then counseling,  
or, better yet, the smashing of  
your own pumpkin for a change.*

*And then there is always my  
favored scene. I, having grown  
so strong, this time leave you  
weeping in fear.*

*I rationalize your behaviour; it is  
so obvious you are of simian-like  
intelligence. I now wonder if I only  
did not notice your knuckles trailing  
behind on the ground.*

*Perhaps the way you dragged me  
instead should have been  
my first clue.*

by Jaqueline Crummey

**FLY GIRL**  
PRESENTS  
**GO WEST**

W E  
S

**FRIDAY,  
NOVEMBER 25, 1994  
DA VINCI CENTRE  
195 BAY STREET  
9 P.M. - 2 A.M.**

**TIX - \$8.00 ADVANCE  
AVAILABLE OCTOBER 25 AT  
EVERYWOMANS' BOOKS  
(CASH ONLY PLEASE)  
\$10.00 AT THE DOOR**

**PARTIAL PROCEEDS TO  
AIDS VANCOUVER ISLAND ~  
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**INFOLINE 1-604-431-8454  
NO MINORS PLEASE I.D. REQUIRED**

**MUZIK BY D.J. MAGGIE  
SOUND & LIGHTS BY  
SWEET SPOT PRODUCTIONS**

**HEY VICTORIA!!!  
WERE PACKING UP THE PARTY  
& BRINGING IT TO YOU!**

**YOU DON'T WANNA  
MISS THIS!**

*I'll have nothing to do with it.*

## MY GRANDMOTHERS' RECIPES

## ONE

My mother's mother's mother  
fled the Ural Mountains  
came to Kanada  
her back burdened by children  
her head leaking recipes.

My mother's mother  
is not speaking  
to her mother.  
Stands silently  
in the kitchen  
cleaning lettuce maybe  
guarding the brothers  
younger than she.

She does not listen  
to her mother  
whose recipes are translated  
speedily by her fingers,  
hands chopping, dicing, shredding.

She does not listen  
to her mother's hands  
telling stories.  
History.  
Her story bleeding  
itself into the soup.

She does not listen  
to her mother's wordless stories  
but she hears.  
She cannot help but hear -  
carrots, potatoes, her mother -  
roots at the base of the blade.

She cannot help but hear.  
She lived in that body -  
her mother's body -  
knows its arteries,  
nerve endings,  
pressure points  
from the inside  
and one day she finds her-self  
in a kitchen.  
Beets bleeding into the soup.  
Her unwilling daughter learning.

Now  
I stand here in this kitchen making soup  
like I saw my mother in her kitchen making soup  
like she saw her mother in a kitchen making soup  
like she saw her mother -  
wordlessly.

## TWO

My father's mother fled  
the town in Bessarabia  
Romania  
where she'd been born  
and thought she'd live and die.

My father's mother fled  
packed five children and a husband  
into a wagon,  
remembered her-self,  
my father  
pushing out her belly.

She left those Ural Mountains  
her head screaming recipes  
her hands wasted, useless,  
unable to translate love  
without a kitchen.

She left those Ural Mountains  
with her skin stretched tight.  
Her belly  
pushing  
pushing  
pushing  
across the European landscape.  
Romania Hungary Poland  
Schonart Poland  
My Oma finally allows  
my father to burst free  
of her belly.  
She was holding him in.  
Keeping him  
from being born.  
What good can there be  
for a child born  
into a war?  
What good?  
At least this child,  
At least this child,  
is young enough,  
is easy to feed.

Now  
my Oma cooks through me.  
I am cooking with her fingers, hands...  
cooking with cornmeal, sauerkraut -  
peasant food.  
My Oma cooks through me  
because she once fed me -  
rye sourdough bread fresh  
baked fruit from the orchard  
halva...  
the door to my kitchen opens,  
the air pulsates with the smells of her  
kitchen  
and I am home.

by Shelley Marie Motz

## Latina Lesbians Organize

Lesbians from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru met in Lima, Peru, recently to plan for the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing, China, in September 1995.

Attendees noted that gay/lesbian sex remains illegal in Ecuador, Chile and Nicaragua; that widespread discrimination in employment, housing and education remains a problem throughout Latin America and the Caribbean; and that the media and the Catholic Church promote violence and repression against gays and lesbians in the region.

The Latina lesbians hope to push demands in Beijing for legal recognition of lesbian families, positive images of lesbians in schools, classification of sexual orientation as an inalienable human right, and use of international human-rights treaties to help lesbians freely organize and participate in politics, among other things.

Organizations attending the meeting included Tal para Cual (Ecuador), Colectiva Neconi (Nicaragua), Colectiva Ayuquelen (Chile), Colectiva Ciguay (Dominican Republic), Las Lunas y las Otras (Argentina), Rede Um Otro Olhar (Brazil), Las Entendidas (Costa Rica), Movimiento Homosexual de Lima (Peru) and El Closet de Sor Juana (Mexico).



## Lesbians Organize in Eastern Europe

Promluv is a new group in Prague, the Czech Republic, for lesbians and bisexual women.

According to a press release, the group focuses on

physical and emotional health, contacts and referrals, publishing a magazine (also called Promluv), and disseminating accurate information about lesbians.

"Our goal," the group said, "is to buy or lease space to start a center offering an information service, AIDS hotline, library, meeting and club rooms, a cafe and possi-

bly a fitness center, and space for short-term accommodation."

A new lesbian group has also formed in neighboring Slovakia.

*I'm not your fucking spritzhead girlfriend!*

# IF WE ARE WOMEN

by Jen Saunders

I took my mom to see *If We Are Women*, a play by Canadian playwright Joanna McClelland Glass.

On the night of the play, she came to meet me. We left my house and started to walk to the Belfry. Mom made a few 'point of interest' comments about my living situation. I hugged her and said, "it's good to see you anyway."

*If We Are Women* is about the frustration, the anger, the incredible urge to communicate; to understand, and to be understood. Honest, angry, loving, and full of energy. *If We Are Women* does not give any answers, any direction. If it wasn't so funny, it would have been unbearable!

*"We look back through our mothers, if we are women."*

It's about four women. Grandmothers, mothers, daughters. Four lives and four radically different points of view.

Sitting in the theatre, watching the play with my mom, I kept making connections between it and us, about her, about me, about our 'family'. I assumed she was thinking the same. I didn't dare ask her. I like to think Mom and I are close. I like holding onto

my fantasy of mother-daughter bonding.

The title, *If We Are Women*, comes from a quote from Virginia Wolf. "We look back through our mothers, if we are women." My mom introduced me to Virginia Wolf, and many other authors and many ideas. And I thank her for that. But I look back, and I watch her, and I only feel anger, and I resent her. Quietly.

In the play, the characters drop all their politeness, all their manners, their secret codes, and tell each other exactly how they feel. In some points they understand each

other, and in some points they listen. But they get it out! They scream it all out, and none is rejected.

The Belfry operates out of an old church in Fernwood.

The next plays showing will be *Oleanna*, by David Mamet. A play about censorship and harassment in a university setting. Nov. 15 to Dec. 4. and *The faraway Nearby*, by John Murrell. about the final years of American painter, Georgia O'Keeffe. Jan. 17 to Feb. 5. ♀



## Premarin con't from Pg. 5

He then warned me about the dangers of osteoporosis, a lowered voice and facial hair. Faced with these risks, I barely gave it a second thought. I took Premarin without fail for over fourteen years, eventually adding synthetic Progesterone.

A few years ago, however, I joined a monthly menstrual circle. We celebrated women's ability to cycle in rhythm with the moon and the primordial healing power of women's menstrual wisdom. I began to explore the politics of surgical menopause and the pharmaceutical-industrial complex's encouragement of synthetic, hormone replacement therapy.

I asked my gynecologist (now female and feminist) about holistic alternatives to synthetic hormones. She had no clue. Schooled on medical journals that are tethered to pharmaceutical advertising revenues, she consistently rejected non-synthetic estrogen substitutes.

I finally found a clinical nutritionist/chiropractor, Dr. Michael Wald, who is helping me traverse new terrain. I no longer take synthetic hormones. I now get my estrogen and progesterone naturally from creams derived from soybeans and wild Mexican yams respectively. Because natural estrogens present none of the dangerous side effects frequently associated with synthetic estrogens, I am convinced they are a much safer hormone substitute.

To maximize the potential for success, Dr. Wald also has me on a sugar-free, organic vegan diet and a daily regime of vegetable juice, vitamin supplements and exercise. Dr. Wald points out that several studies show vegetarians generally have lower estrogen levels, associated with an overall decrease in risks.

In the controversial world of hormone replacement therapy, it is anyone's guess which protocol will prove lastingly effective for menopausal women.

I would rather pursue a more holistic path centred around natural plant derivatives than subject myself to environmentally harmful, potentially carcinogenic, drugs extracted from the urine of oppressed mares. ♀

# Students for Literacy

by Ana Torres

Suzanne Doyle has been working with Frontier College: Students for Literacy for a year. Frontier College is a non-profit literacy organization. Students for Literacy has programs at 25 universities across Canada.

One month and a half ago Suzanne was awarded the Mary Isabelle Mackie Award, a national award recognizing people's contribution to literacy. The reason: in one year Suzanne has organized and set up one of the strongest literacy programs in Canada, here at UVic.

Suzanne got involved because she wanted to give something to her community (especially the disadvantaged). But she did not have any money so she decided instead to give her time. She says, "people in our society are always complaining but they don't get off their asses," and "I believe that a community is only as strong as you make it."

Last year around this time, Suzanne began working

to try to get the project off the ground. Today there are at least sixty trained volunteers. There are also 30 people who are improving their reading skills through UVic's program.

These volunteers are involved with one of three components to Students for Literacy.

Part One: one-on-one tutoring for adults and children to improve literacy

Part Two: tutoring for people through a drop-in centre for street adults

and Part Three: one-on-one tutoring at William Head Prison.

Students for Literacy is an important organization in communities because of many reasons. The first, it creates links between the university and the rest of the community. The second, it is one of few literacy programs which operate free of charge. The third, is that this program is a learner centred approach, tutors ask: "What are your goals and how can I help you achieve them?" The end result is the empowering of our community.

"Some people on the streets want to improve their literacy skills so they can write their 'Food Safe' or 'Serving it Right' Certificates to be able to get a job."

As well, people with low literacy skills are not as aware of their rights, and can be mistreated and abused because of this. Frontier College tries to address all of these issues in a direct and indirect manner.

*"I know statistically that more women than men have low literacy skills in every region of the world," said Suzanne.*

Literacy is an important issue for women to consider. Traditionally, literacy has been used as a form to control women's knowledge and power in society.

"I know statistically that more women than men have low literacy skills in every region of the world," said Suzanne. "We try to make our

program as accessible to women as possible, women can bring their children if they need to."

She also said that women have been put down for years and that this accounts for women's reluctance to come to a literacy organization.

Suzanne told me about a woman, who is married and has children, who sneaks out of her home to be able to meet with her tutor. Her husband does not want her to learn to read. "Illiteracy has been used to oppress women for hundreds of years," said Suzanne.

When Suzanne was given her award, they said she was selfless, creative, ambitious, and will stop at nothing. Jim Page, the National Secretariat for Literacy said "UVic must be so proud of you."

Suzanne responded by saying "UVic does not know who I am."

Suzanne has been trying to get an office space at UVic for over six months. At first, no one wanted to talk about it. Finally, David Strong sent her a letter saying that he sup-

ported the literacy program. In another incident he promised an office, but as of today, Suzanne has yet to see it.

"We've had a computer, books, desk, and chair donated but there is nowhere to put them," said Suzanne.

We need to have a space where people can come to us and get help, she said. Right now, Suzanne has a pager, but if people are calling from the streets she cannot call them back to be able to meet with them. It would help if there was an office with a telephone so that volunteers could answer phones, and be more accessible for people.

Suzanne's contributions to her community were recognized by the Mary Isabelle Mackie Award. We would like to congratulate Suzanne and thank her for all of the work that she has done at UVic and Victoria.

*As of October 21, Students for Literacy has an office space in S-hut. ♀*

VIVA LA VULVA

# STUDENT ACTIVISM EMPOWERING

by Shelley Marie Motz

What does it mean to be a 'student'?

How have your experiences within the university affected you and in what ways have these experiences been contingent upon your race, class, ethnicity, abilities, gender and/or sexual orientation?

How have these factors contributed to your feelings of power and/or powerlessness when interacting with the university?

The university is a powerful institution, firmly entrenched in patriarchal, racist and colonial values. The discourse employed in its classes as well as the institution's focus on bureaucracy are frequently alienating to students.

Consequently, many students attend classes for a couple of hours a day, for four or five years, and then progress to the 'real' world, their 'real' work, their 'real' lives. I find this disheartening.

The university has been the site of my radicalization. This is not to say that the university encourages radicalism. Of course it doesn't.

The university has a vested interest in maintaining the status quo and perpetuating dominant ideologies. The university could even be defined as a microcosm of the 'state'.

Marginalized by courses which keep women from the discourse and disillusioned by my professors' methods of teaching, I floundered around campus for a number of years.

*Marginalized by courses which keep women from the discourse and disillusioned by my professors' methods of teaching, I floundered around campus for a number of years. Then, I began to question the assumption that 'knowledge' was a gift which had to be given to me by my professors*

Then, I began to question the assumption that 'knowledge' was a gift which had to be given to me by my professors. I questioned the 'rationality' of science and objectivity. I also summoned up the courage to step into the Student Union Building and ask for more than a cheap cup of coffee.

During my first year at UVic, I didn't step into the SUB once. Eventually, I began to frequent the building, but it took awhile before I began to feel comfortable within its walls. Initially, it was an overwhelming environment.

However, I began to perceive that individuals who were involved in student politics or other extra-curricular activities seemed much more stimulated by their experiences at university.

They also appeared to have a greater understanding of how the institution functions and were therefore less intimidated by it. They seemed better able to take control of their own learning processes.

I also recognized that they were gaining various skills which would likely be more beneficial to their careers than much of the material studied in their classes.

Essentially, I realized that becoming involved in the student movement would be an empowering experience. So, I took a deep breath and jumped right in! So can you!

*it's nice that you listen /it'd be nicer if you joined in/as long as you play their game girl/you're never gonna win - ani difranco*



Jan Graveline Eliot

*Militant Lesbian with pierced nipples seeks same for friendship and other-*

\* Do you wish you had a greater awareness of student issues? Do you wish you had access to the 'facts'?

By involving yourself with Student And Social Issues (SASI), you can help increase awareness regarding various issues such as Income Contingent Loan Repayment Plans (ICLRPs), systemic discrimination on campus, eating disorders and violence against women.

You can develop an awareness of the interconnectedness of diverse issues while honing your ability to write clearly as well as your ability to speak in public. If interested, attend a SASI meeting or contact Stacey Tabert, Director of Academics, 721-8369.

\* The UVic Women's Centre always needs volunteers, but you can also use the space to relax, finish your homework or eat your lunch.

In addition to offering a safe space for women, the centre organizes events such as the Dec 6th Memorial Vigil and the annual International Women's Day Film Festival.

The centre is located in room 146 of the SUB. Collective meetings are held every

Wednesday at 11:45.

\* The Date Rape and Dating Violence Education Project is concerned with promoting awareness surrounding these issues. Meetings are held every Tuesday from 12:30 to 1:30. Call the Women's Centre for more details. 721-8353.

\* The Emily Collective would love to include you. No skills are necessary. All you need is energy, time and the desire to collectively produce Canada's oldest feminist university newspaper. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 12:30 in the Women's Centre.

\* UVic's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Alliance (LGBA) meets every Tuesday at 6:00pm to have fun, and every Friday at 12:30 to develop and carry out strategies to increase visibility. To find out more about the LGBA, call Lisa at 721-3083. This should be a thriving organization on campus, so don't hesitate - Come OUT!

There are many other clubs, course unions and committees to become actively involved with. Watch for posters. Check the billboard section of student publications and find out what your peers are participating in. You won't regret it!

## MORE ACTIVITIES...

\* Coming soon to Cinecenta...  
A press conference on the social policy review.  
Watch for it!

\* Don't forget Subculture -  
The Wednesday lecture series.  
Every Wednesday at 12:30  
in Cinecenta.

\* Coming soon to The Belfry Theatre...  
Oleana - Nov.15th-Dec.4th  
Far Away, Nearby - Jan.17th-Feb.5th

\* Don't miss Go Fish!  
"The first realistic representation of the lesbian experience."  
At Cinecenta, Nov.30th-Dec.1st,  
7:15 and 9:00

\* Go West by Fly Girl  
A dance you don't want to miss!  
Nov.25th  
Tickets \$8.00 in advance  
available at Everywoman's Books.

*Life is a B-Movie*